



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:
Robie, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Serial No.: 10/015,365

Examiner: Melson, Candice C.

Filing Date: December 13, 2001

Atty Dkt.: Implex-18

For: Instrument and System for
Preparing the Disc Space
Between Two Vertebral Bodies

Date: April 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

RECEIVED
APR 29 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the final Office action of February 10, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on May 10, 2004, applicants submit this response.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and reconsideration of the amended claims and their allowance in view of the remarks.